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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09137 151603Z

47
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
---------- 107970
O 151521Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6474

S E C R E T CAIRO 9137

NODIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG
SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN SEIZURE OF EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN MADRID

1. SINCE RECEIPT OF NEWS LATE THIS MORNING OF PALESTINIAN SEIZURE OF EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN MADRID, NFA HAS UNDERSTANDABLY BEEN GREATLY EXERCISED. IN ADDITION TO BLATANT ANTI-SADAT SYMBOLISM OF THIS ACT, AMBASSADOR ABDUL GHAFFAR IS A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF FAHMY AND RELATED BY MARRIAGE TO SADAT. ABDUL GHAFFAR SHOULD HAVE ARRIVED IN MADRID ONLY A WEEK AGO.

2. WE HAVE NOT HEARD WHAT EGYPTIAN RESPONSE WILL BE TO PALESTINIAN DEMANDS, BUT ARE CONVINCED THEY WILL BE REJECTED. THIS WILL LEAVE OPEN QUESTION OF WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IN DRAMA NOW UNDERWAY IN MADRID. AS REPORTED CAIRO 8851, EGYPTIANS HAD EARLIER HAD REPORTS THAT PALESTINIAN ATTACK (S) ON EGYPTIAN AND OR AMERICAN EMBASSIES SOMEWHERE BEING CONTEMPLATED. AT THE TIME GOE WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD DEMAND THE RELEASE OF THE KHARTOUM FIVE, WHO ARE STILL HELD HERE.

3. IF AN AMERICAN EMBASSY WAS SEIZED AND SUCH A DEMAND MADE, GOE THOUGHT WAS TO PUT THE QUESTION TO US ON WHETHER TO RELEASE THE KHARTOUM FIVE AND TO BE GUIDED BY OUR VIEWS. IF ANY EGYPTIAN EMBASSY
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WAS SEIZED, FAHMY STATED GRIMLY, "WE HAVE PALESTINIANS

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HERE, INCLUDING THEIR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND HAVE
WAYS TO MAKE ANY TERRORISTS THINK TWICE". GOE
WILL HAVE LITTLE COMPUNCTION TO USING THE PALESTINIANS
RESIDENT HERE AS LEVERAGE. WHETHER IT WILL WORK
REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
EILTS

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